

The Commons

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Settlement Point of View.

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God's Requirement.

We live by faith, but faith is not the slave
Of text and legend. Reason's voice and God's,
Nature's and duty's, never are at odds.
What asks our Father of His children save
Justice and mercy and humility,
A reasonable service of good deeds,
Pure living, tenderness to human needs,
Reverence and trust and prayer for light to see
The Master's footprints in our daily ways?
No knotted scourge or sacrificial knife,
But the calm beauty of an ordered life,
Whose very breathing is unworded praise,
A life that stands, as all true lives have, stood,
Firm rooted in the faith that God is good.

—John G. Whittier.

Civic Betterment in Chicago.

ALL-DAY CONFERENCE OF COUNTY IMPROVEMENT SOCIETIES.

The awakening social conscience of this city has never before spoken with each comprehensive intelligence as marked the many important papers and addresses delivered at the Fullerton Hall conference of the Improvement Societies of Cook County. Saturday, October 5th will long be remembered as a red letter day in the forward movement toward a better educated, better governed and more beautiful Chicago.

The morning session devoted to civic improvement through private local initiative was rich in testimony for the past helpfulness and future promise of this field as a primary cause of intelligent social action. The service rendered Chicago by the patriotic action of such organizations as the Merchants' club, the Civic Federation and the Municipal Voters League, was ably discussed by President La Verne W. Noyes. After urging specialization and federation among the many societies and clubs engaged in civic betterment Mr. Noyes said, "The Merchants Club of Chicago has given us our system of bookkeeping, the Civic Federation a civil service system and the Municipal Voters League an honest majority in the city council. Every social club should take up some phase of civic improvement and would be better and stronger for accomplishing some such task. Political clubs should realize that the greatest

service they can render their party is to advocate the most needed public improvement."

SOCIAL SETTLEMENTS.

That most unique and vital of the many forms of private initiative manifested by the Social movement throughout the world—the Social Settlement—was represented by Prof. Graham Taylor of Chicago Commons. Setting forth the three chief functions of the settlement as, first a social centre for the unification of neighborhood life, secondly as a laboratory for the study and analysis of social and industrial problems and thirdly as a common meeting place for mutual interpretation between men of widely differing ideals economic conditions and standards of living, he continued:

"Improvement societies and social settlements are born of the same spirit. Both are indicative of an awakening social and civic conscience. These two lines of effort may cordially and helpfully co-operate. Districts that should be foremost in the representation of these improvement societies need initiative given them in order to see the opportunity and seize the chance of self-betterment. It is not in any lack of confidence in the spirit of the people that we say private initiative must be given to secure public improvements. There is need in this country for that by which England has profited so much—an intelligent and patriotic leisure class devoted to public progress and social unification—people that have time to think consecutively, time to act intelligently not so much *for* others as *with* others, and will operate as the something to bind together upon more or less common ground, those that otherwise would not be likely to meet, mingle and co-operate. There is also pressing need for original investigation and some scientific tabulation of the great body of facts, the product of our modern industrial life that are new forces in Sociology. In all these social centers there are persons of more or less trained capacity for observation and co-operation in lines of civic improvement. In London, Boston, New York and Chicago, investigations of specific social problems have been carefully and intelligently made and data of the highest scientific and practical value has been collected and tabulated. Wood's "The City Wilderness," "Hull House Maps and Papers," Melendy's "Substitutes for the Saloon" and many tenement house,

sweatshop and sanitation reports afford original sources of information upon questions of immediate civic concern. These little groups that can command more time than those engaged in the competitive world should be responsible for practical literature upon such subjects. As they gain in resources these centers will surely supply these investigators and literature. We cordially invite our friends of the improvement associations to make all the use they can of the plants or the personnel of these centers called social settlements. We will supply literature, invite correspondence give information regarding books or public documents or other sources of information or inspiration. We also pledge that we will make all these centers in congested districts just so far as we can, self-improvement associations of the people surrounding us, who work with us, and with whom it is our high and happy privilege to work.

It seems as though this was the birth of a new era in Chicago. I congratulate the National League of Improvement Associations upon the fine initiative they have taken and I bespeak for them a hearty co-operation in their broad work throughout the country. There could be no better national leader for this movement than our own Prof. Zeublin."

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL.

Speaking to the topic of "Municipal Art," Mr. Dwight Perkins said—"It is a common mistake to think that art is something we can take off or put on as one's coat. Let us understand positively and definitely that art is the manner in which we do the things that we must do. We should cultivate the sense of including in our judgments and exacting in all work the artistic element. Principles apply to communities exactly the same as to individuals. As a community in the furtherance of our community needs it depends upon us whether there will exist or will not exist the artistic element. The first work in order to bring about some realization of our dreams is the work of the iconoclast. The smoke nuisance is the first move. Until smoke is done away with nothing can be beautiful. Then we come to the evils of our political system. The evils of city government are our evils. A greater necessity than for private initiative demands that we go into city politics. We cannot bring an artistic city out of this mudhole until we educate even aldermen to some sense of decency and beauty. Art is fundamental, ethical, and if anywhere must be everywhere. We must work through political channels.

Now let us take the positive side. What shall we do to make Chicago beautiful. First must come a knowledge of conditions. Nothing would be more interesting than to take the people in

this room around Chicago. Doubtless not more than three persons here have been in every ward of this city. When we know our city as it stands then let us get an idea of the situation of Chicago in its worldwide relations. First Chicago's position in regard to nature's supply of beauty. Next the industries that cause us to live here. Chicago is fast becoming the largest iron and steel centre in the world. It is known to European investors that as a distributing centre we have but begun. Having an adequate knowledge of our city as it is and an appreciation of its reasonable future the next step is a plan. No intelligent and consecutive effort can be made without carefully prearranged, thoroughly studied constantly revised plan. No artistic elevation can come out of a poorly arranged plan. This plan should consider greater Chicago and a complete dock system for Chicago harbor. South Chicago should take from our Chicago river the heavy freighting. This plan would change the river wards, include lighter and permanent bridges and make of this neglected district the most beautiful part of our city. Intramural transportation must finally be underground. The top of the streets must be eventually clear for pedestrians and driving. Recreation parks, baths and public buildings should be provided for in a comprehensive and related scheme. The cities of Washington and Paris present the models for this plan."

Mr. Perkins concluded with a sympathetic review of the work done by private efforts in securing small parks and playgrounds in the congested districts of Chicago.

ORGANIZED CHARITY

Superintendent Ernest P. Bicknell of the Chicago Bureau of Charities said: "There should be specialization on one hand and co-operation on the other. Eight years ago the Bureau of Charities was organized. Its processes are to assist in establishing organized effort to take the place of disorganized efforts, and to give each charitable society a clear field in its district and a chance to do that thing it can do best. There are in Chicago some five hundred or more organized agencies that work in friendly relations with each other through this common centre known as the Bureau of Charities. The Bureau serves as a sort of general agency or instrument in getting the sense of charitable opinion in the city and it gathers together and concentrates public sentiment. When this general Bureau was established it was found that there were many bare spots and much overlapping. This has practically ceased through the general oversight of a central related agency. By concentrating in the hands of the Bureau, the outing work this summer was done in a much

better and less expensive way and upon a greatly larger scale. With the co-operation of many agencies nine thousand mothers and children were given outings this season."

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS.

Mrs. Gertrude Blackwelder spoke of the history of the movement and told of the first Improvement Society organized at Stockbridge, Mass., fifty years ago. Over five hundred societies are now registered with the National League. The story of the work done by the Morgan Park Society was typical of this field of endeavor. First a pretty park was made of the grounds about the railway station, next the streets were cleaned and sidewalks improved, and even the hideous posters were replaced by three public bulletin boards in the most frequented parts of the town. A Morgan Park Day has been established as the annual muster of the forces of civic progress in that community.

PUBLICITY.

The afternoon session devoted to "Improvement through Citizenship" was marked by several notable addresses. Mr. William Kent of the Municipal Voters League described the uses and power of "publicity" in removing social evils and purifying municipal administration. He contended that the chief source of the corrupt politician's power lay in the ignorance of the facts of venality, on the part of the mass of the people and their consequent seeming indifference to social and political wrongs. The keynote of this able paper was "turn on the light."

TAXATION.

The problem of taxation is the common root to which an analysis of all municipal wrongs and remedies inevitably leads. This is the source of our civic anemia. Insufficient school accommodations, lack of parks, playgrounds, and baths, filthy streets and alleys festering with garbage and disease, have a common excuse in the chronic depletion of the city treasury. This is not because we are poor. Chicago is a city of vast wealth. Neither is it because we have no remedy under the law. Shortsighted and unscientific as is our revenue system it would if enforced, give ample funds for the present needs of our city. The simple fact is that dishonest corporations, individuals and public servants perjure themselves annually and corrupt with one hand the heart of our civic life, and with the other rob little children of their birthright. Margaret Haley of the Teachers Federation—that most aggressive and effective enemy of the tax thieves yet developed—said in part—"For twenty-eight years there has been no enforcement of the law taxing the franchises of public service corporations. Two hun-

dred millions of dollars have been lost to the city treasury within that period from this neglect alone. Five corporations holding franchises granted by the city of Chicago annually steal three million dollars from the public schools. Until the tax laws are enforced we *will* have corrupt public servants and we will *not* have parks, playgrounds or baths. The co-operation and organized attack by all the Improvement Societies of Chicago upon this central abuse, would stamp it out, educate our children, and change the face of our city."

WINNETKA TOWN MEETING.

The return by the citizens of Winnetka to the old custom of New England towns in the matter of public meetings of all citizens in the interest of public affairs was interestingly told by Mr. Frederick Greeley. In 1890 Henry D. Lloyd and Rev. Q. L. Dowd began this movement. Schools, parks, and all matters of public concern are discussed by all the people and a civic conscience has been developed fruitful in good works. The town meeting is now an established and powerful feature of Winnetka's social and political life.

PUBLIC BATHS AND GYMNASIUMS.

Miss Mary McDowell of the University of Chicago settlement whose untiring zeal in the cause of vacation schools, playgrounds and free baths has won for her the respect of indifferent aldermen, the esteem of all patriotic citizens and the love of hundreds of little children, said in part:

"At the small public bath in our neighborhood with only twelve showers for a population of thirty thousand, fourteen thousand baths were taken in the month of July. There are no bath rooms in houses in our community. Swimming pools are educational and social and mean something more than just a chance to keep clean. There are two instincts given to all of us. The instinct of association and the instinct of play. Within walking distance of the settlement there are twelve boys clubs. The influence of some of these clubs is demoralizing because of their location and surroundings. We need local centers, and there should be a People's Palace in every neighborhood."

PUBLIC SCHOOL EXTENSION.

The evening session devoted to consideration of ways and means for social and civic service through the public schools, was the most largely attended meeting of this inspiring conference. Superintendent Orville T. Bright speaking upon the question of free text books said—"An order was given this year by our Board for the purchase of \$40,000, worth of books for the supply of the first four grades in the public schools. No

one ever gave this subject much thought who did not come to believe in free text books. There was a time when I thought I was opposed to the city furnishing books free. But that was before I had studied this question. I was then an ignorant opponent. I am now an intelligent advocate for free text books. What is the sense of furnishing the schools with the apparatus—maps, reference books, supplementary books and equipment of all kinds—and then draw the line at the text books? Our schools cost about eight million dollars a year or forty thousand dollars a day. The delay in getting books always means a loss of from one to three days at the beginning of each term. The text books only cost about forty thousand dollars. The conclusion is obvious. If free school are good, free text books are simply common sense and business principles in their administration. Chicago is the only first class city in the United States to-day that has not free text books."

ART IN THE SCHOOL.

Miss Ellen Gates Starr of Hull House spoke of that work in which she was a pioneer for many years—the bringing in and bringing out of the artistic element in the public schools. The sense and power of beauty in color and form to shape ideals and habits of thought—for these she pleaded with the deep persuasion of an abiding faith.

SCHOOLS AS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS.

Miss Jane Addams spoke briefly for a larger use of the public schools for clubs, lectures and neighborhood entertainments. "These wider functions should not mean more work for the school teachers. There would be a large body of volunteer workers to help supply every district. The public school is the typical democratic institution and it should be made the center of our collective life."

PROGRESS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL EXTENSION.

Prof. Zeublin, President of the National League of Improvement Associations provided a fitting and inspiring close to the proceedings of this remarkable conference. His illustrated lecture upon Public School Extension throughout the United States, with striking pictures of model kindergartens, manual training and cooking schools, lecture halls and playgrounds, carried us into the van of the world's progress and crystalized into definite aims the growing purpose of the day.

"Co-operation can go on in America, Great Britain and on the continent only by the help of men of means, culture, and good will."

"What co-operation needs here, as elsewhere, is not philanthropy, but leadership; not endowment, but initiative."

Friedrich Naumann.

LEADER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL UNION OF GERMANY.

By PROF. CASPAR RENE GREGORY.

South of Leipzig, on the rolling ground rising from the North German plain towards the Ore Mountains of Saxony, is a little village Stormthal, that lies quite at one side from the great roads and is never seen by the passing traveler. In this village Friedrich Naumann was born as the son of the pastor. His maternal grandfather was the famous Leipzig preacher Ahlfeld, the centre of a large and intelligent circle of Christians, some twenty-five years ago. Naumann went to the old Fuerstenschule at Grimma; it will be remembered that Saxony counted three such schools, at Meissen, Grimma, and Pforta, of which Pforta now belongs to the Prussian province Saxony. These schools with a large number of boys, many of them picked fellows, are celebrated for the wonderfully good training which they give. No less are they celebrated for the friendships that arise between the boys within their walls and for the results of these friendships in the after lives of the men. Naumann here became warmly attached to Paul Gœhre and Martin Wenck, and many an impulse started there that continued its influence in after years.

At the university of Leipzig Naumann developed more clearly his unusual powers. He fell in with the great current that started the "Union of German Students" (Verein Deutscher Studenten) and he became one of the leading spirits in it. This drew him out beyond the university of his home and attached him to the Prussian preacher Adolf Stœcker by ties of friendship and of devotion to the patriotic movement. In the first years this movement was unfortunately largely anti-semitic in its aim. As Stœcker went on with his great plans and descended to the working classes to lift, and to help them socially, the young pastor Friedrich Naumann, now in the hills of Saxony, in the first district that the Social Democrats had secured for their party for the Imperial Parliament, entered into his ideas with youthful fire.

One of the results of Stœcker's efforts was the Evangelical Social Congress, begun at Berlin in the year 1890. Naumann was asked to read an essay at the first meeting but he suggested a postponement. His friend Gœhre became the first General Secretary of the Congress. Nearly at the same time the Evangelical Workmen's Unions were started, of course under the active participation of Stœcker, Naumann, Gœhre, and Wenck. In the sequence, year after year, the Evangelical Social Congress and the Evangelical

Workmen's Unions met usually at Easter in Berlin or in some other large city, and year after year Stöcker and Naumann, backed up by Gœhre and Wenck, drew great crowds of enthusiastic hearers. Naumann became the pastor of the Union for Inner Mission at Frankfurt on the Main, Wenck the pastor of the same Union at Darmstadt, and Gœhre pastor at Frankfurt on the Oder.

Stöcker started a political party, the Christian Social Party, and in consequence was asked to lay down the presidency of the Evangelical Social Congress, which after some hesitation he did, but he at the same time left the Congress. Naumann on the contrary stayed in the congress. Naumann had gathered a group of friends and helpers about him by means of a small weekly paper called "The Help" (*Die Hilfe*.) His own contributions to this paper centered in a weekly short sermon and these sermons attained such renown that they were year by year printed afresh in a separate volume. To the Naumann Group, as we may now call the friends gathering around him, the action of Stöcker did not seem to come so far down to the needs of the workmen as was to be wished. Stöcker allowed his feelings as a former member of the Conservative Party to influence him to such an extent as to prevent his entering into the very core of the workmen's difficulties. Naumann, Gœhre, and Wenck thought that the only way to get hold of the workmen and to help the workmen, was to go straight into the discussion of their condition from their side and with them as helpers.

The Friends of "The Help," those who read and agreed with Naumann's paper had long since begun to hold meetings in various towns, and they now spread more and more and made it a point to confer with him. It was thought best to organize the groups and to combine them. After a meeting or two of a more intimate kind at Erfurt, in which men from different parts of Germany talked over the whole situation, it was determined to summon a number of delegates to a general meeting at that city. It seems to me that the first meeting was in 1896. This meeting discussed at length the question of the union of religion with politics. Professor Sohni pleading for the union, others, like the undersigned, against it, and finally it was agreed that religion was not to be made a part of the new party programme. Another subject of discussion was whether the movement should remain a Union or try at once to be a political party. It was decided to remain a Union, and the undersigned's suggestion, to call it the "National Social Union," was agreed to.

The elections for the Imperial Parliament in the year 1898 found the young Union really still too

weak for a decisive political action, since there was neither enough money at command nor were public speakers for election purposes to be had to the extent that was necessary. However, it was determined to try in several districts to gain some experience in election technics and to see how far the general public might be relied upon for sympathy. The result of the election in eleven districts was so far encouraging as to count up twenty-seven thousand votes. But no candidate was elected. Humanly speaking it seemed as if Naumann would have been elected in one district, had not the National-Liberals of that district, Jena, spread false reports about him in a perfidious manner on the eve of the election, a trick that in Germany is considered very low.

The National Social Union sustained for a short time a daily paper at Berlin called "The Time" (*Die Zeit*.) It is remarkable what a high reputation this journal secured for itself within the brief space of its existence. One thing it made a regular business of, and that was always to print as fully as possible the attacks made upon it by its enemies. But aside from that the little sheet was recognized on all sides as an unusual contribution to pure journalism. The question of its resuscitation has again and again been mooted but thus far the financial difficulties have seemed to be insurmountable. Perhaps a magazine may this fall be started that will help further the aims of the Union.

The greatest loss that the Union sustained was early in the year 1899 when Gœhre decided to go over to the Social Democratic party. His friends feel sure that this step was a mistaken one and that it was due to misconceptions and misapprehensions, the consequences of a severe nervous prostration of that year, during which he had completely forgotten what he had done during the election of the year 1898. He had then accepted two candidacies and had stumped for them till his throat gave out, whereas he declared in the year 1899 that he had accepted no candidacy in 1898 because he was out of sympathy with the other leaders of the movement. It is a question whether he and the Social Democrats will long continue to agree to disagree with each other under the flag of the one party.

The Union had from the first the invaluable services of Martin Wenck as its Secretary. Now it has been possible to find a younger man for that place, and Wenck takes up the editorship of one of the journals of the party at Marburg. In this position he will be able to place more freely at the service of the Union his unusual powers as an orator and especially as a dialectic orator.

The young man who succeeds to Wenck as Sec-

retary is Dr. Max Maurenbrecher, one of the most talented writers and orators of his age. He has passed through an apprenticeship in the editorship of the "Hilfe" under Naumann, and it is now intended so to reorganize the Secretaryship, that the more mechanical work shall be given to an assistant, the higher, organizing work falls to Maurenbrecher. The purpose is to make him like a General-Adjutant to Naumann. What the action of the fall meeting of the delegates at Frankfurt on the Main may be, I cannot at this distance learn till later.

Beginning with Naumann's person we have passed to a view of his work as a social reformer. Let us return to him. He is a tall man, extremely stout, with a persuasive and far-reaching voice. One of the opposing journals, a Hamburg organ of the imperial government, said a short time ago that he was the most talented political speaker of the day. It was right. Naumann speaks as if he had each of his hearers by the button and his quiet sentences enter their ears with unusual force. He has not been satisfied to act as an agitator, to speak and not to learn. He has entered upon studies in political economy and in social science. He has visited foreign cities, for example Vienna and Paris, for the purposes of studying social problems there. He journeyed to the Holy Land and wrote a fascinating book on "Asia" about his travels, everywhere trying to delve into the reason for the social phenomena; in a parenthesis we may add that the illustrations in that book are largely from his pencil.

One of the most valuable contributions from his pen is his book "Democracy and Imperialism," the most masterly political treatise of the day. This book brings us to his main point in all his work. He insists upon it, that Imperialism and Democracy can unite, that the German emperor might find in the German workman a firm ally, and the German workman find in the emperor a fast friend. Naumann yields in care for the workman to no man of any party and he insists upon it in contradiction to the Social Democratic party, that the betterment of the workman is to be sought at once, under the present conditions, under the present government. The Social Democrats concede that they are not prepared at this moment to assume the reins of government, even supposing that the nation should place these reins in their hands. Nevertheless they refuse to unite with other parties and with the present government in measures for alleviating social distress. They delay their participation in such measures until that uncertain future in which they shall attain unto power. Naumann declares this un-

practical and false. A politician is a man of his day. He must think of the moment as well as of the future. We have no part in the discussions at the end of the twentieth century. We have to look out for our day. Therefore Naumann calls upon the workmen to follow him, to give up the thought of warring upon the government and to join with the government in social measures which shall take effect at once and be the earnest of further relief in the future.

On the other hand Naumann knows well that the educated part of the community must be enlisted to join with the workman and help them get their dues. In many of the universities of Germany important men are openly or in a quiet way showing that they agree with Naumann or at least sympathize with him in his main views. A number of Naumann's writings have aimed especially to enlighten the educated and to draw them to his side in the contest. Thus far he has met with much success on the one side and on the other, in spite of all bitter opposition. May he finally achieve his ends to the weal of the whole nation.

Settlement Service—An Appreciation.

BY DWIGHT GODDARD.

All summer I spent in the heart of Chicago. I had stood on Milwaukee Avenue and watched the crowds, at early morning, go hurrying cityward and at even-tide stream homeward, tired and dispirited. I had trodden the interminable streets that branch north and south and east and west from this great artery, each walled in by three and four deckers and every corner guarded by a saloon. Here and there great six storied factories made the streets more repulsive and their towering chimneys belched forth clouds of soft coal smoke. Not far away the vast railroads with their incessant traffic added their quota of soot and noise. The fresh winds from Lake Michigan were all too quickly loaded with smoke and dust and soot and only made more grimy these dun colored blocks that crowded each other street beyond street. There were no parks, no greensward, no trees! Only here and there a little patch of starved, spindling flowers, where some brave attempt had been made to transform the barrenness of it all and had failed. Nothing to cheer! simply a monotony of dreary, uninviting streets, a wilderness of irregular roofs, and dirty chimneys. Then the noise! the dull, heavy roar of the city. Shrill cries of children, the banging of heavy drays on the pavements, the screech of the trolley cars, the roar of the elevated roads, all mingling into one distracting, deafening, indescribable clangor.

That was last summer! Now in the beautiful, early fall, I am spending a few days in dear, old New England. The early frosts have glorified the forests that border the still, smiling meadows and pastures. The horizon is limited by the silent grandeur of the eternal hills. Here the stillness is very restful, the little sounds that come and go only serving to add to its charm. The rustle of wind in the trees, the twitter of birds, the chatter of a sociable squirrel, the call of crows and the voices of men mellowed by the distance.

How attractive life seems in these surroundings! How delightful! Under its benign influence how naturally one wants to be a better man, to be more patient, happy and helpful; to be more grateful to the good God who has made it all so beautiful and so fruitful. I am ashamed when I think how unworthy I am compared with many of the people I met last summer in the crowded Seventeenth Ward of Chicago. Day after day I entered the homes of my people and found so many of them cheerful and hopeful in spite of their dreary surroundings. The closing of the hall door so often shut me in to the cheeriest of homes. Often in the homes of those I thought to be the very poor, I found a little cottage organ and the walls made bright with pictures hoarded from the Sunday newspapers. So often, I found the bravest facing of life's struggle by the ones most handicapped by a drunken father, dependant relatives, or a long drawn-out sickness. There always seemed to be something to inspire me, even in the homes of the deepest poverty, a dear little child, the brave helpfulness of a son or daughter, the self sacrifice of some mother. There were all too many scenes of brutality, pathetic pictures of earthly sorrow, but in those narrow flats I found so many—and it made me thankful to God—so many who were happy and contented, undismayed by the obstacles and limitations that hedged them in, unconquered by the grinding poverty and endless, relentless round of the years.

Ah, that is the secret of the noblest living! To be brave, cheerful, triumphant, wherever our lines are cast, and if there is given to us a richer measure of strength or opportunity, to use it in kindly service for our fellow men.

Settlements in Philadelphia.

ANNA F. DAVIES, HEADWORKER, COLLEGE SETTLEMENT.

The small number of Settlements in Philadelphia may be suggestive of various ideas. The fact has been used as an argument that the city's need of such agencies is comparatively slight, and it has been offered on the other hand as proof of the general slowness of the place. The indubita-

ble fact that settlement interests seem to be "looking up" at present as never before, may seem to justify the latter view. To find the settlement stock rising is gratifying, for on some accounts Philadelphia offers especially satisfactory ground for the working out of the settlement forms of life. It has not the overcrowding, the insufferable high tenements, the abnormal speed and "smartness" that to its temperamental citizen seem symptoms of acute social disease in New York and Chicago. One feels in Philadelphia that the processes of civilization are killing people less rapidly than elsewhere, if not less surely, and that it may prove more rewarding in the long run to be a live man in a "dead city" than a dead man in a "live city." It seems natural here for Settlement living to have a domestically social flavor that is more difficult in other places. This gives a definite charm, and, to many visitors and residents, has seemed characteristic and somewhat unique.

The College Settlement, under the College Settlement Association, is the oldest of the Philadelphia Settlements. A new house opened by the Episcopalian deaconesses within the past month is the youngest. The Lighthouse, the Eighth Ward Settlement, and the University Christian Settlement under the management of the Y. M. C. A. of the University of Pennsylvania, fill in the years between. The different houses touch widely differing neighborhoods.

THE EIGHTH WARD SETTLEMENT.

The Eighth Ward Settlement attracts especial attention because it has the rare distinction of adapting itself to a negro population, and secondarily because it has a fine new building. Not a great deal of money has as yet come into Settlement use in our city, but this building, while not large, has been planned for its present use, and is a fine example of what ought to be done in many needy localities. It has baths, laundry, gymnasium, club rooms, and apartments for residents on the top floor. The head of the house once said they issued no reports because they had so many discouragements they could not make them read well. After four years' experience, however, confidence has increased, and progress is plainly visible not only in the development of individual lives but in the condition of the neighborhood to eye and nose. A certain area has been deeply reformed in the sanitary sense. The curse of surface drainage has been largely subdued. The broom brigade sweeps the alleys. What was dirty has been made clean, and is kept so by devoted visitation and all kinds of care.

Up to this time the work has been almost exclusively with children, but this winter is to in-

augurate a campaign for organization among the women. One of the trying experiences of the days in the old house was in the musical line. Rooms were occupied in a building used in part as a mission of the Orthodox Friends. No music was the rule; and that rule, inflicted on colored children, went far towards destroying the beauty of many days.

A SOCIAL LIGHT HOUSE.

The Lighthouse and the interests associated with it have never called themselves a Settlement, and they have no place in "the Bibliography." They have grown from the simplest beginnings to be an important factor in the life of Kensington, "that district of Philadelphia which is the center of the textile industry in this country." During the past six years a more than self-supporting restaurant has developed, a large men's club has been organized which has a fine and strong social life, a library has been maintained, lectures, concerts, debates, etc., have enlivened the winter nights, and recently a roof garden has provided a resource for the summer.

THE BOYS' CLUB.

The Boys' Club of the Church Club of Philadelphia has been under the charge of Miss Kelly, who has lived in the district for some time, and last year moved into a beautifully appointed building erected for its special use. From the stamp savings center has grown a full fledged Savings Bank. The Visiting Nurse Society has sent resident nurses to the district, who work under Miss Kelly's direction. "The work is becoming more and more important as its influence steadily intensifies. The constant testimony of the men themselves is that even apart from the benefit to those who are directly identified with it, no other measure of equal value to the neighborhood could well be adopted by those who are interested in the problems of workingmen's lives." In short the Lighthouse is genuinely a settlement in spirit and work. It has come to a point where it must establish a wider basis of support, since the funds of the Union Benevolent Society, which has been its main financial support, are no longer available. It is no great amount that is needed from year to year to assure the permanence and growth of its work, and there can be little doubt that the interest of the community will be more than sufficient to meet the impending need.

THE UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT.

The University Christian Settlement has taken a house in an Irish and American neighborhood within easy distance of the University. As yet no continuous resident force has developed. A considerable work has been done in a boys' club,

a summer camp has been opened, and last winter corresponding work for girls was undertaken. This beginning is good and the house will doubtless grow into an all-around settlement in the near future. The early days with the Irish gangs tested the mettle of the students. The athletes were the most potent factor in the conquest of the street. One of the leaders in the movement for the settlement, who was strong on the theory of religious influence, does not hesitate to say that his present steady pull with the boys was secured by playing the foot ball heroes as leading attractions for many weeks.

The necessity of moving two years ago because of the opening of the Starr Garden Park lost the College Settlement some of the advantages of age. It has gained in other ways, however, more than enough to offset the loss. The larger and better house has made possible a greater number of residents, and has increased greatly the opportunities of social intercourse. The organized activities of the house are fairly covered by the following enumeration.

Stamp Savings' Bank.

Childrens' Clubs and public meetings for children, especially the clubs using various manual occupations, stories, games, music, dancing, and gymnastics.

Study rooms for "home study" especially designed to supplement the work of the public schools among foreigners.

Small neighborhood Library.

Circulating Picture Library of the Civic Club.

Literary, Social, and Dramatic Clubs among the young people.

Classes in almost any subject demanded, provided other agencies do not already offer satisfactory opportunities.

Lectures, musical and dramatic entertainments, etc., during the winter months.

A tiny roof garden is constantly in use throughout the summer.

A Country Club, for the last two years almost self-supporting, is managed by settlement residents whenever a suitable house can be obtained. A permanent country house is a crying need.

A SCHOLARSHIP.

A scholarship of three hundred dollars per year is maintained by general subscriptions, on the plan of a College Scholarship, for the training of social workers in both theory and practice.

Volunteer Sanitary Inspection within a limited area.

Co-operation with Juvenile Court by supplying one Probation Officer, who resides in the Settlement.

The Settlement carries on its work at two cen-

ters, 433 Christian street, and 502 South Front street. The latter house is managed by the Settlement, part of the rooms being retained for social work, the rest rented as tenements. It is proposed to establish residents in this house, and to increase considerably its usefulness to the river front population.

The overwhelming need of the College Settlement is an extension of its plant. Within a month it could easily use twice its present space. Nearly everything it is doing in the way of neighborhood organization is being done in miniature as compared with the possibilities. Many demands are made upon it which it is entirely unable to meet, and which suggest a thoroughly modern building and an athletic field as the logical next step. May it be taken at an early date!

While Philadelphia Settlements are strong on the side of a full and genuine social life, the side of civic work seems weak. Possibly, if more men would apply themselves to social service of the Settlement type, this line of effort could be strengthened. Possibly the deadly miasm of indifference and inertia so prevalent in state and city politics may be too pervasive to counteract, belonging to the climate and in a sense a normal local evil. If this be true Heaven help Philadelphia, for it promises to become a sort of civic Campagna, politically uninhabitable except at the inevitable sacrifice of moral health. Philadelphia, October 10, 1901.

College Settlement Association.

EDITED BY

MRS. CAROLINE WILLIAMSON MONTGOMERY.

Over *The Open Hearth* at Denison House.

Burn, Fire, burn!
Flicker, flicker, flame!
Whose hand above this blaze is lifted
Shall be with touch of magic gifted,
To warm the heart of chilly mortals
Who stand without these open portals.
The touch shall draw them to this fire,
Nigher, nigher,
By Desire.
Whoso shall stand
On this hearth-stone,
Flame-fanned,
Shall never, never stand alone.
Whose home is dark and drear and old,
Whose hearth is cold,
This is his own.
Flicker, flicker, flicker, flame!
Burn fire, burn!

Florence Converse, Oct. MDCCCXCVI.

ANNUAL MEETING AT BOSTON.

The College Settlement Association held its eleventh annual meeting at Denison House, 93 Tyler Street, Boston on Saturday, October twelfth. Miss Katherine Coman presided over the sessions of the Electoral Board.

Among the items of public interest was the report upon the exhibit of the College Settlement Association at the Pan American Exposition, which took the form of an album of settlement photographs that at the close of the Exposition will be on exhibition in turn, at each of the three settlements under the care of the association, in New York, Philadelphia and Boston.

In response to the offer of the settlement monthly, *THE COMMONS*, to add a department to be devoted to the interest of the College Settlement Association, the Electoral Board voted to appoint an editor to have charge of it, and also appropriated the sum of fifty dollars toward the maintenance and development of the paper. Mrs. Caroline Williamson Montgomery has accepted this appointment and enters upon the editorship of this department of *THE COMMONS* at once.

THE COPLEY HALL MEETING.

The public session of the Association in Copley Hall was very well attended by the residents and constituencies of the several settlements. Wellesley College students served as ushers. Miss Katherine Coman, professor of Economics and Sociology in Wellesley College and president of the Association, was chairman of the meeting. In her introductory remarks she traced the influence of residence upon those who had during the past decade constituted the three settlement households under the care of the Association. Forty-seven per cent. of their three hundred residents remained actively identified with varied lines of philanthropic work after leaving the settlements. Twenty-three had become Head Workers. So pervasive have the settlement spirit and way of working come to be, that under the general recognition and adoption given the movement in many influential quarters, it has ceased to be a new evangel and become an accepted method on many and varied lines of social service. Fifteen colleges are very actively represented in the Association.

The Rivington street settlement in New York was represented by its Head-Worker, Miss Williams. With discriminating comparison, she showed the marked advance made in the recent tenement house legislation, which was initiated by the Charity Organization Society committee on the regulation of such buildings and was formulated by the legislative Commission of the New York state

legislature. The law abolished the prevailing twenty-eight inch "air-shaft," which almost always proved a conduit for foul air, instead of a fresh-air ventilator and substituted the peremptorily required court, twenty-four feet square. Not more than seventy per cent. of the city lot may be covered by the building, and at least twelve feet rear space must be kept clear. Tenement houses over five stories high must be fire-proof in construction. Every room must include 70 feet of air space and one room in each suite must contain 120 square feet. In addition to exacting provisions for supervision and certificates of inspection, a card catalogue record of the deaths, diseases and arrests in each tenement is to be statedly made and filed for public reference. While the law is being opposed and some of its impracticable features may be modified by the building contractors, yet forty-one permits have been issued already under the law as it stands, which is encouraging in view of the fact that 1,100 had been issued just previous to the supercedure of the former lax regulations. The improved tenements will be at a premium so that the poorer people must long continue to live under the old conditions. To test their danger and discomfort, four residents lived in two three-room apartments for seven months. So dark and either dangerously drafty or close were the rooms that they were abandoned as unfit for habitation.

Miss Davies, Head-Worker of the Christian St. Settlement, Philadelphia, incisively argued for the non-scholastic educational opportunities, agencies and results emphasized by the settlements. In their constituencies, as in the school of life, results are neither exclusively mental nor the product of books. As in the economic and industrial organization of the day, so in the settlement educational effort with working-people, the agency of association is chiefly depended upon for practical effectiveness. The philosophy underlying this associative method to which our educational work with adults is in large part restricted, demands conscious effort to define and develop it.

Denison House, on Tyler St., Boston, was spoken for by its Head-Worker, Miss Dudley. Briefly reviewing the past two years, she regarded their greatest advance to have been made in industrial work. The older boys had raised \$365 by their very creditable rendering of "The Merchant of Venice" \$200 of which they had contributed toward manual training for the younger boys. A women's study club had given \$90 toward the equipment of the gymnasium the conduct of which had been turned over to the city. The registration of women to vote on educational interests had been furthered by the settlement. Much encouragement in promoting an enlightened civic conscience

among the well-to-do was experienced in the increasing recognition of unjust conditions and co-operation in improving them.

Professor Graham Taylor of the Sociological department in Chicago Theological Seminary and Resident Warden of Chicago Commons spoke, as the guest of the Association, upon "The appeal of the social ideal for an intelligent plan of action." A quarter century has passed since the forerunner of the settlement movement went from Oxford University to the city wilderness of White Chapel. Sixteen years have elapsed since the first settlement was established to commemorate and carry on the prophetic labor of Arnold Toynbee's luminous life. We may well inquire, what accounts for the persistence and progress of the groups centering their service around his formative motive. When arousing himself and others to pay the obligation which academic culture owes to common capacity and the honest debt which privilege and leisure owe to labor, he wrote: "Languor can be conquered only by enthusiasm and enthusiasm can be kindled only by two things,—an ideal which carries the imagination by storm and a definite intelligent plan of action to carry it out."

Plato's imagination was stormed by "The Republic," that of St. John and Augustine by "The City of God," Sir Thomas More's by his dream of "Utopia," John Ruskin's by the priesthood of an Art which will join together conscience and craft, beauty and duty so that no man can put them asunder. But it remained for The Son of Man to invest his vision of "The Kingdom of The Father" with a social faith adequate to inspire undying sacrificial struggle to realize it on earth. It was by his spirit that Arnold Toynbee was moved. By his social faith in the ideal and in the duty and privilege of carrying it into action, Toynbee Hall and every settlement, worthy to be in the succession, came to its birth and success. The appeal of the social ideal to the imagination, which is closely akin to faith, accounts for the settlement movement and is the dynamic of its method, the soul of its service. The ideal of equality of opportunity, of a co-operative commonwealth, of the Association of the Peoples, of "the union of all who love in the service of all who suffer" should never fail to carry the imagination of settlement people by storm. That granted, the duty of this second decade of the movement is the intelligent plan and scientific method of social action. Exactness of our knowledge of conditions and thoroughness in what we undertake toward improving them are demanded, to justify the avowed purpose and all the personal and pecuniary cost of the settlements.

NEWS NOTES FROM THE COLLEGE SETTLEMENTS.

The friends of Miss Carol Dresser, who has been in residence in both Denison House and the Rivington street settlement, and latterly has been headworker at the Elizabeth Peabody House, a Kindergarten Settlement in Boston, will be interested to hear of her marriage August 1st to Dr. Witheile of Portland, Maine. Address, 77 Park street.

Each of the three settlements of the C. S. A. is now fortunate in having a valuable assistant headworker. Miss Machintosh has assisted Miss Dudley at Denison House, Boston, for a year. Miss Hubbard, who was last year with Miss Davies in Philadelphia, has now gone to 95 Rivington street, New York, to assist Miss Williams, and Mrs. Bates of the Unity Social Settlement in Minneapolis is assisting Miss Davies.

Last spring the college settlement association offered a fellowship for the two-fold purpose of giving opportunity to some person to live in a settlement, share its life and to investigate settlement problems.

The committee of award, having also direction of the work of the Fellow, consists of Miss Emily Green Balch, of Wellesley College, Prof. Samuel McCune Lindsay of the University of Pennsylvania and Mrs. Elsie Clews Parson, of Barnard College.

About thirty candidates applied, both men and women, and the fellowship has been awarded to Miss Mary B. Sayles, Smith College, 1900, who will live at Whittier House in Jersey City, N. J.

Her subject will be the investigation of tenement house conditions in that city,—a subject which needs immediate attention.

Christodora House Settlement.

FRIEDA E. LIPPERT, HOUSE PHYSICIAN.

Christodora House was opened in 1897 as a Social Settlement, in one of the most crowded districts on the east side of New York. With the idea of meeting the needs, social, educational, and spiritual, of the overcrowded homes of its neighborhood, it has grown year by year, steadily supplying these needs.

Until it existed, the dance hall, the saloon and the street corner, were the only rendezvous for the boys and girls, young men and young women of an immense tenement population. Now, these young people not only spend their own evenings in the homelike rooms of Christodora House but others in their families, their mothers and

fathers are easily persuaded to spend their otherwise prosaic moments in the new atmosphere of an evening "At Home" with their friends, the residents and workers of the settlement.

THE SOCIAL BOND.

Even more easily are the mothers lured by the desire to see the place where their wee ones have their own delightful times, for the children of the neighborhood are well provided for, by "bank" and library, by club and class and play room, at Christodora.

EDUCATIONAL WORK.

The educational needs of these young people, most of whom being in business, have had to leave the public schools too soon,—have been met by evening classes. The public night school with its obvious lack of adaptability to individual needs, is not an ideal arrangement, in its place. The small groups or classes possible in the Settlement, offer an attractive and practical means by which many a hardworking sales-girl and factory worker, may continue her interrupted studies, or may fit herself for other lines of business.

THE RELIGIOUS SANCTION.

The spiritual needs "of the multitude," finding its way to Christodora House, are remembered and are provided for as they would be in any ideal family life. The educational curriculum always includes special opportunity for Bible study; moreover the boys and girls, the young men and women, even the children, gather Sunday after Sunday in the bright, cheerful rooms of the House, for their devotional meetings. This feature of the work is more and more faithfully recognized by the people of the neighborhood as the true foundation of all the happy success of Christodora House. They come to it from all classes of belief—Hebrews, Roman Catholics and Protestants mingle here; foreign born and native American touch hands; yet they are all learning one language, that born of the simple, steadfast, loving desire to obey and follow the One in whose name Christodora House has "set up its banners."

THE SPIRIT AND METHOD.

Let me quote a description by Mrs. Margaret Sangster, the President of its Board of Managers. "Four years ago, two young women rented an ordinary five-roomed flat, a cellar and a little room back of a delicatessen shop, and went there to live. Their only furniture was at first, an iron bedstead, a mattress, without pillows, a common kitchen table and a few wooden chairs. After paying the first month's rent they had only fifteen dollars in their purse, but with

calm confidence, they began their work. "They looked unto Him and were lightened, and their faces were not ashamed."

To-day Christodora House owns its home—a commodious one, (not of five small rooms) of five floors, and pays all of its salaries. It employs a resident physician,—thus trying to reach the starved soul through the too often starved body. It stands for all that is of practical help to its neighborhood. Many a mother comes, not always to borrow clothes for the last new baby, but to tell simply of the burden of its advent and to explain why the next older small girl has not attended "club" regularly during the eventful fortnight.

WORK DONE.

For the year ended in December, 1900, there was a club attendance at the House, (11 clubs meeting each, once a week) of over fifteen thousand. The devotional meetings brought an attendance of nearly nine thousand. There were made twenty-five hundred neighborhood calls (those paid to the homes of the people). By one way and another, through all the instrumentalities of the House, there came in personal touch with it, through the year, more than seventy-three thousand individuals.

An Old Social Shrine Burned.

The destruction by fire on Oct. 12, of the old Stepney parish church in London, removed not only an old land mark of the fifteenth century but a historic memorial marking the initiation of the social settlement movement. It was to the help of John Richard Green, then the young rector of this old church, that Edward Denison came from Oxford in 1860. From the same parish the Rev. A. F. Winington Ingram, also Warden of Oxford House, was elevated by King Edward to be Lord Bishop of London. To the Boston Transcript we are indebted for this charming bit of description.—The East End of London is dull, and unpicturesque even in its poverty; but it has many surprises for those who do not know it well. No more commonplace section can be found than Commercial road, opening out of Whitechapel near Oldgate, and piercing a swarming Jewish quarter; yet at its far end is Stepney Green, the strangest surprise of this benighted section. It is a beautiful old church-yard, eight acres in extent, in the heart of the Hebrew quarter. A gray church tower, among sycamores and surrounded with leafy verdure, was old Stepney Church, with its sweet chime of bells. Flanking the Green are rows of rusty, red-brick houses built as long ago as the time of the Georges and Queen Anne. This

oasis of verdure in the centre of the dull and unpicturesque East End is a strange survival of village life. Stepney, with its ancient church and quaint mansions facing the Green, was once a rustic village, tenanted by rich men and people of quality. Now its church is the centre of religious effort in a vast area swarming with dense population.

View-Points A-Field.

The Social trend of the legendary embellishments wrought into the architecture of the Pan-American Exposition buildings at Buffalo may be indicated by these from the exterior friezes of the Hall of Ethnology:—"The Weakest among us has a gift." "Speak to the earth and it shall teach thee," "All are needed by each one," "What a piece of work is man."

The mayoralty campaign in New York City is significantly hopeful of better things even in the picturesqueness of its political devices. Even Tammany has been forced to claim and promise the municipal promotion of the higher life of the people. On every elevated railway station and many banners and stereopticon slides are inscribed:—"What Andrew Carnegie said" about the management of public libraries and parks; and "What Andrew Carnegie did" in giving \$5,500,000 for the Public Library "under the present administration." The conclusion to this syllogism "to vote for the Democratic party," is somewhat impaired by the fact that it was to the Public Library Trustees that he gave the money, taking good care to see that the "present administration" would have nothing to say or do about it, except to appropriate a further sum to be expended by the aforesaid trustees.

Meanwhile the citizen's union and Mr. Low explicitly promise an administration chiefly devoted to civic improvement, and make rejoinder to the Tammany boast by this "What" placard of their own:

WHAT SHEPARD SAID:

"The most burning and disgraceful blot on the municipal history of the county is the career of Tammany Hall. * * * If you put Tammany into power, Tammany will give you the same kind of government it gave you in 1894 and the years preceding the Lexow investigation. That is the sole recommendation which Tammany Hall and the Tammany orators give for their ticket. They are the same men, the same bosses.

WHAT SHEPARD DID:

He accepted the Tammany nomination for Mayor."

The Commons.

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Social Settlement Point of View.

GRAHAM TAYLOR, - - - - - Editor.

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EDITORIAL.

The adoption of The Commons by the College Settlement Association, as a medium of its communication with its own constituencies and the public, is gratefully recorded in the report of its proceedings in another column. This official action is the first formal recognition which The Commons has received that it is fulfilling the broader purpose for which it was started. Without any capital except credit at the printer's, it has been maintained these six years, not without severe exactions upon the very restricted settlement income and the still more limited time of an overcrowded life. But in this service to the whole settlement cause, which has been far costlier than would have subserved the local interests of our own settlement work, we have been sustained in heart and hand by the sympathy and gratuitous co-operation of some of the busiest women and men in other settlements at home and abroad. Despite its many limitations, its frequently mortifying evidences of extreme, though unavoidable haste, its necessary devotion of an undue proportion of its sparse enough space to the struggle of the Chicago Commons settlement for foothold on the earth, The Commons circulates a monthly average of 4,000 copies, 3,000 of which are subscribed and paid for by those enlisted or interested in settlement or kindred lines of social service, all over the English speaking world. The remarkably wide diffusion of its circulation enhances its influence, but hinders its self-support through advertising, which would sustain it if even half of its subscribers lived in one locality. So the Chicago Commons settlement has thus far borne the burden of the slowly, but surely decreasing deficit in this paper's accounts as a part of its contribution to the cause for which all the settlements stand. This has been done in the hope which at last seems about to be realized, that The Commons will receive the additional co-operation in contributions to its columns and efforts to extend its circulation, which will enable it to serve the whole settlement constituency, better perhaps than any other single journal has the opportunity to do. The informal expression

of opinion by neighborhood workers in New York City, alluded to elsewhere, gives reason to hope that at the next meeting of their Conference they may take essentially the same action as the College Settlement Association, in furnishing another page or so of information, comment and criticism, written from their own point of view and circulated also among their own constituency. The friendly co-operation of these two most powerful centers of social activity, with the already enlisted groups at Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, San Francisco and London, England promise the prompt and steady progress of The Commons in serving its enlarged constituency.

It is the earnest desire and hope of all immediately connected with the management of The Commons to receive the freest suggestion and friendliest criticism regarding the conduct of the paper. For the sole motive and aspiration of our gratuitous effort are to make The Commons render the truest and best service it may to the cause for which all interested in it alike stand—the advancement of the social condition and unification of the common life.

A Great Scholar's Championship of the Rights of Labor.

Technical scholarship and special intelligence regarding the workingman's world are not often found under the same hat. A university professor and a labor politician are seldom seated in the same chair. Professor Caspar Rene Gregory of the University of Leipsic, Germany, is doubly distinguished as the only American holding a full professorship in a German University, and in being actively at work with the National Social Party promoting the most practical politics of the Fatherland. It is the highest honor to his American birth and spirit to have become the successor of the great Tischendorf as the foremost textual critic among New Testament scholars, and to be the fearless associate of the bold Pastor Nauman in the industrial politics of the Empire and the democratic movement for economic justice and social peace.

This University freedom, as it is publicly recognized and personally exercised in Germany, has been inspiringly exemplified at just this crisis in American liberty by Prof. Gregory's free-spoken championship of the rights of labor at the University of Chicago and the Chicago Theological Seminary.

In his notable lecture before the Seminary on "The Social Movement in Germany" he significantly affirmed that workingmen are the first to move. This fact he attributed to their distress, not only by reason of long hours, low

wages and dangerous occupations, but because they fail to receive the recognition due them as men, whose character and achievement deserve to be recognized. They want to be taken for the men they are, neither as slaves nor half-slaves. This foremost movement of the industrial crafts is due to their superior intelligence. Formerly they were too tired to think. Going now from the national schools to their work, German working people feel powerful to end the bad conditions under which they needlessly suffer. They know what progress has been made, is being made and may be made. They are moving together, by single shops and by trades unions, some of which are in the Social Democratic party, others are independent, and still others avow a distinctively Christian affiliation. Their movements are often more intelligent than those of the employing class.

Employers, too, are moving,—some of them to repress the labor movement, which compels them to act, others to realize the unity of interests avowedly recognized by them.

Professors of economics and those in other university departments are also moving. That these profoundest students of the facts, as well as those devoted to higher social ideals, very generally substantiate the claims of the Trades Unions and defend the rights of labor was taken by Prof. Gregory to be of the greatest significance.

His summary characterization of the social bearings of the political parties in Germany was illuminating. To the Conservatives, who are mostly agrarian employers, there is no social question. The Ultramontane party is deeply affected by the social movement among the working people within the Roman Catholic Church. It has spoken more freely and has entered more actively into social politics than Protestant constituencies. The Social Democrats, as the opposition party, will not unite with other movements, vote against the legislative efforts of the government or other parties to better conditions, and have so persistently repelled the advances of the Emperor that he has finally withdrawn his efforts to enlist their co-operation. The Free Thinkers, or irreconcilables, are led by Eugéné Richter. The National Liberals comprise the industrial employers and are as unsocial as the Conservatives. The Christian Social Party movement, initiated by Dr. Stocker, former Court Preacher, is being superseded by the more radical "National Social Party, led by Pastor Friedrich Nauman. His political and social leadership has cost him his pastoral standing, and while the most active Christian leader of his people, he is ecclesiastical-

ly designated as "out of charge." His party, to which Prof. Gregory and many other Protestant ministers and teachers belong, believes in securing the working people's rights through now by national action.

The social movement in Germany becomes more and more reformatory, less and less revolutionary. The duty of the hour in America, as in Germany, the eminent lecturer declared, is to help labor organize, as the one possibility of social progress.

Comte's Social Vision After Fifty Years.

It is fifty years ago this very year since August Comte added to his "Positive Philosophy" the section devoted to "Social Physics," coining, as the single alternative title, the term "Sociology," which was thus introduced to the language of learning. In its original usage it was as speculative, as it was "barbarous" in the judgment of the first Encyclopedia which defined it. It may still well be reserved to designate the theory and philosophy of society and those facts and forces involved in the statics and dynamics of the whole social aggregate. Even in that realm of postulates and ultimates however, it should never include, much less chiefly deal in the transcendental, to which some of its theorists seem inclined to confine it. Although Sociology is not the sum of the social sciences, but rather the framework and basis for their study, yet it is as practically barren and useless without their practical arts of living and working together, as is a foundation or a scaffolding without a superstructure to live and work in.

The scientific progress of these arts of interrelationship through the past half century, amply justify the claim of Sociology itself to have status among the real "Hierarchy of the Sciences," to which its foster father so pedantically introduced it.

Fortunately for itself as well as for the Humanity it was christened to serve, Sociology has proven to belong less to the realm of "Social Physics" than to that of social psychology and social ethics.

Far as we may yet be from an all comprehensive social synthesis, yet the development of the science of Sociology has been attended by the evolution of a social consciousness, which furnished both foundation and ideal sufficient for reducing to an art our efforts to live and work together. In the reduction of common life to the beauty, precision and efficiency of the arts, without the loss of that spontaneity in which life itself, as well as its liberty, consist, the settlements,

with all the other hand-maids of spiritual progress, find their exacting and inspiring task.

In rounding out the first quarter century of their history the settlements should lead the practical development of the sociological sciences in the conquests they are destined to achieve in this second half century of their progress.

The Commons congratulates the London Echo upon securing the editorship of Percy Alden. Its support of the London County Council policy and its advocacy of all the live progressive movements among the people will be greatly strengthened by Mr. Alden's social spirit, practical grasp of public questions, personal knowledge of the people's need, incisive style and high courage. We hope, however, that the gain to the press will not cost Mansfield House and the settlement movement the loss of his leadership.

From the Settlements.

SOUTH END HOUSE, Boston, is about to move from Rollins St. to 20 Union Park, two blocks South and two West. The extraordinary noise of the new elevated railway will thus be escaped and an additional center of influence occupied. The club house is located in the more densely crowded neighborhood on Harrison Ave., where one of the resident's rooms. The inadequate tenement house now used for this purpose is soon to be superseded by a new building near by and in close proximity to the municipal gymnasium. It will contain an assembly hall, club and class rooms and a restaurant. The Women's Residence is situated in still another neighborhood at 43 E. Canton St. In co-operation with the Arts and Crafts Society, hand-made lace industry is promoted. The Penny-Provident Savings books are being placed among a large number of girls working in neighboring factories and shops. The investigations by South End House residents, which have been published in "The City Wilderness" and other briefer monographs are being supplemented by other researches which will be reported in another volume.

"The Labor World" edited by S. Katayama warden of Kingsley House, Tokyo, has been acquitted of the charge of violating the Press Law of Japan in publishing the recent manifesto of the Japanese Socialists. This is a most welcome victory for free speech in the island empire of the Orient.

Continued on Page 16.

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TWO INTERESTING SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES.

At Denison House, Boston.—Guests of the College Settlement Association, sixty or more representatives of the Boston Settlement. Students of Wellesley and other colleges, and representatives of kindred lines of social service gathered in the homelike settlement parlors for an informal conference, Oct. 13. Training for social service in settlements and educational institutions was presented by Professor Graham Taylor for discussion. The value of guiding the new residents' reading and the educational opportunity of a half hour house-hold vespers were emphasized. The courses for social workers offered by the universities of Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were described, as were still larger plans for a more elaborate curriculum in other institutions. Classes for training club workers in hand-crafts, supplemented by conferences, lectures and reports were reported by Lincoln House. Co-operative effort to establish in Boston a thorough school for training in social service was suggested as feasible. Robert A. Woods of South End House discussed the attitude of settlements toward city politics and municipal improvements. He thought their influence could be only indirectly exerted where the party organizations were so thorough and strong as in some eastern cities. If the need of some centralizing personality creates the "Boss," then the settlement should seek to develop a better type of Boss by making the movements for municipal improvement an object lesson in democratic city government. The policy in New York has been for the several groups of social workers to devote themselves to the development of specific departments of the city administration. Thus the Public Education Association has promoted the extension of public school work. The Out-door Recreation League has furthered play-grounds, recreation piers and parks, not of the "keep off the grass" type.

The discussion of the attitude of the settlements toward Radicalism turned on the distinction between maintaining free-speech and offering a free platform. In rejoinder to those who thought it no part of settlement service to provide the free-platform for either propagandism or the modifying effect of discussion, the educative value of the "Men's Smoker" conference at Toynebee Hall and the Free Floor discussions at Chicago Commons were urged.

Co-operation with THE COMMONS to make it more representative of the whole field of settlement operations was helpfully suggested.

"The most weak-headed men are always the most headstrong."

AT FRIENDLY AID HOUSE, NEW YORK.

A delightful lunch party of twenty-five or more guests from the settlements and other groups of neighborhood workers responded to Mrs. Simkhovitch's invitation to meet Professor Taylor. The conversation turned into inquiry concerning political, civic and social progress in Chicago, and ended in conferring over the development of THE COMMONS as the medium of intercommunication, criticism and suggestion between the social service groups widely scattered in the cities of this country and abroad. The Conferences of Neighborhood workers may soon reach some practical conclusion upon this matter which was referred to its next session.

LINCOLN HOUSE, Boston is to lose its Director in Charge, Mr. William A. Clark, who goes to the work of the Settlement at Seventeenth Street and Eighth Ave., New York City. He will continue his work upon the monographs on social service, the publication of which will be announced in these columns as they are issued.

WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD House, at Fiftieth St. and Tenth Ave., New York City announces the opening of its fine new building on Tuesday evening, Oct. 29, with addresses by Dr. W. H. P. Faunce, President of Brown University and Rev. R. P. Johnston, Pastor of the Fifth Ave. Baptist Church. A description of the thoroughly equipped buildings and a report of the opening occasion will be furnished by the Head-Worker, Mr. Archibald A. Hill, for the next number of The Commons.

THE NATIONAL CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE.

A movement to federate the improvement associations which are becoming increasingly effective in the betterment of municipal conditions throughout the United States, is a pleasing incident of the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo. "The National Civic Improvement League" was initiated and did its cause both the honor and the service of electing Professor Charles Zeublin of the University of Chicago as its first president. No man has done more to prompt interest in and promote intelligent study of civic conditions in American cities than he, by his university extension work throughout many states. We anticipate with pleasure his own account of the scope and methods of the League in these columns. It is already endeavoring to secure at the St. Louis Exposition a department exhibit of municipal art and the science of modern city-making.

But every community stands in need of personalities living exclusively for its ends.—Adolf Harnack.

